

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01376 201213Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-06 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 SP-02

PM-03 INR-05 DODE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 343

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BANGUI 1376

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CC, CT

SUBJ: AFRICAN TROOPS IN SHABA

REF: STATE 150529

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGUI 01376 201213Z

1. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR HOW THE CAE WILL PARTICIPATE
IN THE SHABA FORCE. BOKASSA WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MAKE A GESTURE
TO HELP HIS "BLOOD BROTHER" MOBUTU. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH ARE
WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE GOCAE ON WHEN TO PROVIDE
TRANSPORT, AND THEY HAVE YET TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF THE EQUIPMENT
REQUEST WHICH GOCAE INFORMED THEM JUNE 6 WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

2. IF THE CAE DOES PARTICIPATE, THE DURATION OF THE STAY OF ITS CONTINGENT WILL PROBABLY BE DETERMINED BY LOGISTIC CONSIDERATIONS, THE WISHES OF MOBUTU, AND THE PLANS OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS.

A. LOGISTICS: THE CAE WILL NEED TO PLUG INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S SUPPLY SYSTEM TO MAINTAIN ITS TROOPS IN ZAIRE. WE ASSUME THAT THERE IS FRENCH OR BELGIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SYSTEM ESTABLISHED TO MAINTAIN OTHER AFRICAN CONTINGENTS. IF SO, THE VIEWS OF THOSE COUNTRIES WOULD GREATLY INFLUENCE HOW LONG THE CAE CONTINGENT COULD STAY.

B. MOBUTU'S WISHES: THERE IS A PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOKASSA AND MOBUTU, WHO FREQUENTLY EXCHANGE BRIEF FLYING VISITS. THEY VERY WELL MAY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH DIRECTLY ABOUT CAE PARTICIPATION IN THE SHABA FORCE. BOKASSA WOULD LISTEN CAREFULLY TO MOBUTU, PARTICULARLY IF MOBUTU WAS WILLING TO OFFER TRANSPORT FOR A SMALL CAE CONTINGENT.

C. OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: BOKASSA IS A STAUNCH MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF MODERATE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES WHICH IS THE SOURCE OF THE SHABA FORCE. HE WOULD BE LIKELY TO BREAK WITH A GROUP DECISION ONLY IF MOBUTU PERSONALLY ASKED THE CAE CONTINGENT TO STAY AND ONLY IF LOGISTICS WERE ASSURED.

3. THE DURATION OF THE FORCE'S STAY IN ZAIRE WOULD BE A SUITABLE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION AT A MEETING OF THE CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPLIERS
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SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGUI 01376 201213Z

OF LOGISTICS SUPPORT, AND ZAIRE. CLEARLY, IT WOULD BE BEST IF SUCH A MEETING WERE HELD IN KINSHASA OR IN THE CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE AFRICAN CONTRIBUTORS RATHER THAN IN EUROPE. GIVEN OUR OWN DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR ANY CAE CONTINGENT, WE ARE NOT WELL PLACED TO PROPOSE SUCH A MEETING TO THE GOCAE. THAT WOULD BEST BE DONE BY THE FRENCH OR, PREFERABLY, ONE OF THE AFRICAN CONTRIBUTORS.

4. IF THE CAE IN THE END DOES NOT SEND A CONTINGENT, IT WILL STILL SUPPORT THE FORCE AT THE OAU AND OTHER MEETINGS. THE CAE MIGHT IN FACT BE MORE RIGID FOR CONTINUATION OF THE FORCE THAN THE PARTICIPANTS, WHO WILL BE AWARE OF LOGISTIC CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER PROBLEMS.
SMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O MR. SCOTT.

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NNN

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